

**Essential Questions:**

1. What role do stories play in our society and in our lives?
2. Why do we mythologize people, places, and events?
3. How are children affected by stories?

**Character Identification:**

William Bloom

Edward Bloom

Old Dr. Bennett

Karl

Jenny Hill

Willie

Norther Winslow

Jasper “Buddy” Barron

Ben Jimson

Sandra Templeton

Wiley

Al

Mrs. Rainwater

Don Price

## Study Questions:

“The Day He Was Born”

1. What happens on the day Edward Bloom is born?

“In Which He Speaks to Animals”

2. What special quality does Edward possess with regards to his relationship with animals?
3. What happens when a chicken sits in Edward’s lap?

“The Year It Snowed in Alabama”

4. Describe two farfetched events that occur the year it snows in Alabama.

“His Great Promise”

5. By the age of twelve, Edward knows everybody in his home town and can recognize them by the sound of their \_\_\_\_\_ when they walk.
6. Why do people say Edward knows more than Mr. Pinkwater, the librarian?

“My Father’s Death: Take 1”

7. Who is in the process of ushering Edward from the world?
8. What goes unfinished in the land of dying?
9. Why is death the worst thing that can ever happen to Edward?
10. Edward lived in a state of constant aspiration, but “getting there, wherever it was, wasn’t the important thing: it was the \_\_\_\_\_.”
11. What is unusual about the geisha Edward sees in Nagoya, Japan?
12. What does Edward want from day one?
13. According to William, when is a man considered great?

“The Girl in the River”

14. How does Edward save the life of the girl in the river?
15. What does Edward find in his shirt once the girl leaves?

“His Quiet Charm”

16. Edward has the ability to make people \_\_\_\_\_.

“How He Tamed the Giant”

17. Why is Karl stealing food from the people of Ashland?
18. What does Edward offer Karl instead of food?
19. How is Edward able to tame Karl?
20. What is Edward’s “special power”?

“In Which He Goes Fishing”

21. What is extraordinary about the catfish found in Big Lake?
22. What does Edward see at the bottom of the lake?

“The Day He Left Ashland”

23. The only way to leave Ashland is to pass through the place that has no \_\_\_\_\_.
24. What happens to the people who are not meant to leave Ashland?
25. Describe in detail one of the people Edward encounters on his journey to leave Ashland.
26. The town is “damp” as a result of a residue of rain. This rain is a symbol for the residue of a \_\_\_\_\_.
27. Why are some of the townspeople missing fingers?
28. How does Dog react once Edward leaves the town?

“Entering a New World”

29. The narrator is \_\_\_\_\_ Bloom.
30. Edward Bloom says he would thank the thugs who beat him within an inch of his life and took his last dollar. Why?
31. What five word slogan does Edward Bloom invent that turns Ben Jimson into a “rich man”? \_\_\_\_\_

“The Old Lady and the Eye”

32. Edward Bloom attends \_\_\_\_\_ University.
32. A group of boys steal a/n \_\_\_\_\_ from the old woman.

“My Father’s Death: Take 2”

33. William describes his dying father as \_\_\_\_\_.
34. What does Edward ask William to get him?
35. Edward prefers which type of exercise?
36. How does Edward avoid answering questions about God and heaven?
37. What is the significance of Pinocchio?

“His First Great Love”

38. Edward’s first love’s name is \_\_\_\_\_.

“His Legendary Legs”

39. What is Edward’s special talent?
40. How does he complete this talent?

“In Which He Makes His Move”

41. Who is Don Price?

“The Flight”

42. Describe the “showdown” that occurs at Piney Mountain. What is the outcome?

“On Meeting the In-Laws”

- 43. Why is Sandra’s father not invited to her wedding?
- 44. Who is Seth Templeton?
- 45. What does Seth Templeton like to do?
- 46. How does Seth react to Edward’s news?

“His Three Labors”

- 47. Describe in detail one of the three labors Edward performs.

“He Goes to War”

- 48. What happens to the *Neried*?
- 49. What does Edward see in the water?
- 50. How does he survive?

“My Father’s Death: Take 3”

- 51. William compares his father to a \_\_\_\_\_.
- 52. Why does William accuse Edward of being scared of getting close to him?
- 53. William says he will give his father “one more chance” to do what?
- 54. According to Edward, what is a metaphor?

“The Day I Was Born”

- 55. Auburn plays \_\_\_\_\_ University the day William is born.

“How He Saw Me”

- 56. Name the seven virtues Edward wants to pass on to William.
- 57. “And by his logic one day, I [William] would become a giant, and Edward would become nothing, invisible in the world.” Explain.
- 58. What will one day be William’s according to Edward?

“How He Saved My Life”

59. Describe in detail how Edward saves William’s life twice.

“His Immortality”

60. Explain how the joke “Had you going there, didn’t I?” upsets William.

“His Greatest Power”

61. According to William, what is Edward’s greatest power?

“In Which He Has a Dream”

62. Edward has a dream that he is dying. What occurs? Be specific.

“In Which He Buys a Town, and More”

63. The name of the town Edward buys is \_\_\_\_\_.

64. Describe Jenny Hill and Edward’s relationship from beginning to end.

“How It Ends”

65. How does Edward spend his days once he accepts that the cancer has spread?

“My Father’s Death: Take 4”

66. Explain the significance of “There’s this man. There’s this man, and he’s a poor man, but he needs a suit, and-” when Edward asks William to explain what he (William) has learned from him (Edward).

“Big Fish”

67. What happens to Edward Bloom at the end of the novel? Be specific.